

T-597

c. 1876

Fox's Clothing Store
St. Michaels
private

Fox's Clothing Store is a pivotal commercial structure that distinguishes the St. Michaels business district. Marking the prominent corner of Talbot Street and Canton Alley, the mid nineteenth-century store building retains a well preserved Victorian store front as well as its overall exterior appearance. The second floor porch incorporated in the rear wing is exceptionally unusual with its robust turned balusters.

The chain-of-title for the Talbot Street property suggests that the current two-story frame building was erected in 1876, shortly after a mortgage was executed to the Workingman's Building and Loan Association of St. Michaels for \$600. Charles A. Smithman and John H. McQuay, the joint owners of the property, borrowed \$600 in 1875, and then secured the mortgage with the improved lot in 1878. Since Charles Smithman married John H. McQuay's daughter, Elizabeth, the property passed to Smithman's daughter, Augusta, on the death of Charles. Augusta Smithman sold the corner house to T. Hughlett Henry in 1913. However, Augusta reestablished her family's ownership on the site by purchasing the property back in 1922.

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. T-597

Magi No. 2105974511

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Fox's Clothing Store

2. Location

street & number 300 Talbot Street

 not for publication

city, town St. Michaels

 vicinity of

congressional district First

state Maryland

county Talbot

3. Classification

Category

 district

☒ building(s)

 structure

 site

 object

Ownership

 public

☒ private

 both

Public Acquisition

 in process

 being considered

☒ not applicable

Status

☒ occupied

 unoccupied

 work in progress

Accessible

 yes: restricted

☒ yes: unrestricted

 no

Present Use

 agriculture

☒ commercial

 educational

 entertainment

 government

 industrial

 military

 museum

 park

 private residence

 religious

 scientific

 transportation

 other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ronald Fox

street & number

telephone no.:

city, town

state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Talbot County Clerk of Court

liber 580

street & number

Talbot County Courthouse

folio 136

city, town

Easton

state Maryland 21601

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

te

 federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. T-~~601~~ 597**Condition**

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Fox's Clothing Store stands on the southeast corner of Talbot Street and Canton Alley in the central business district of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story frame store building faces east with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Probably built in 1876, the three-bay frame store rests on a minimal brick foundation and is sheathed with vinyl siding. The medium pitched roof, covered by a layer of seamed tin, is finished with boxed cornices and flush gable ends. Attached to the back of the house is a two-story, four-bay service wing.

The east (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a Victorian store front of plate glass windows and a recessed entrance that occupy the northern two bays. Stretching across the upper level of the display windows is a bracketed cornice. A door that was formerly located in the southernmost bay has been covered over. The second floor is lighted by three unevenly spaced six-over-six sash windows that are flanked by louvered aluminum shutters.

The north gable end is marked by two six-over-six sash windows that light the second floor, while single-pane sash windows illuminate the third floor. Both pairs of windows are located to each side of the interior end brick stove stack that pierces the roofline. The south gable end is a plain wall surface aside from the two single-pane sash that light the third floor.

The west side of the main block is largely covered by the two-story, four-bay rear wing. A brick stove stack rises between the second and third bays. The three eastern bays on the north side are filled with six-over-six sash windows, while the fourth bay is distinguished by a second floor porch. The most notable feature of the porch is the robust turned baluster handrail that stretches between the post and the porch wall. The gable end of the wing is marked by a door opening on the first floor and four-over-four sash window on the second. The gable end is flush.

The commercial space on the first floor has been reworked and access was not gained to the balance of the building.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-~~600~~ 597

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

SIGNIFICANCE

Fox's Clothing Store is a pivotal commercial structure that distinguishes the St. Michaels business district. Marking the prominent corner of Talbot Street and Canton Alley, the mid-nineteenth-century store building retains a well preserved Victorian store front as well as its overall period exterior appearance. The second floor porch incorporated in the rear wing is exceptionally unusual with its robust turned balusters.

STORY AND SUPPORT

The chain-of-title for this corner property fronting Talbot Street suggests that the current two-story frame building was erected in 1876, shortly after a mortgage was executed to the Workingman's Building and Loan Association of St. Michaels for \$600.(80/304) Charles A. Smithman and John H. McQuay, the joint owners of the property, borrowed \$600 in 1875 and then secured the mortgage with the improved lot in 1878.(85/452) The house is located on the 1877 county atlas. Since Charles Smithman married John H. McQuay's daughter, Elizabeth, the property passed to the Smithman's daughter, Augusta, on the death of Charles. Augusta Smithman sold the corner house to T. Hughlett Henry in 1913.(165/159)

However, Augusta reestablished her family's ownership of the site by purchasing the property back in 1922.(192/205)

Survey No. T-~~001~~597

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Paul Touart - Architectural Historian		
organization	Historic St. Michaels	date	9/25/87
street & number		telephone	301 427-1100
city or town	St. Michaels	state	Maryland 21663

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

YEAR: 1968 VOL: 432 PAGE: 448
FROM: Essie S. Fox PRICE:
TO: Ronald N. Fox
NOTES On SW corner of Talbot Street and Canton Lane; fronting 24 feet on Talbot Street and running back W on Canton 147 feet..
Conveyed to Essie S. Fox by Edward B. and Elsie L. Watkins 1968, 431/690.

YEAR: 1968 VOL: 431 PAGE: 690
FROM: Edward B. and Elsie L. Watkins PRICE:
TO: Essie S. Fox
NOTES Same description.
Conveyed to Edward B. Watkins by Jesse J. Eldot 1948, 278/189.

YEAR: 1948 VOL: 278 PAGE: 189
FROM: Jesse J. and Lee P. Eldot PRICE:
TO: Edward B. Watkins
NOTES Same description.
Conveyed to Jesse J. and Lee P. Eldot by Florence S. and Robert V. Warr 1948, 277/315.

YEAR: 1948 VOL: 277 PAGE: 315
FROM: Florence S. and Robert V. Warr PRICE: \$3500
TO: Jesse J. and Lee P. Eldot
NOTES Same description.
Upon the death of Augusta Smithman the house and lot descended to her only heir, Florence S. Eldot and her husband Robert.
Conveyed to Augusta E Smithman by:
(1) Virginia M. Bradford 1922, 192/205
(2) S. Alice Smithman 1922, 193/91 (quit claim)

YEAR: 1922 VOL: 192 PAGE: 205
FROM: Virginia M. Bradford PRICE:
TO: Augusta E. Smithman
NOTES Same description (parcel three).
Conveyed to Virginia M. Bradford by T. Hughlett Henry, trustee 1921, 192/204.
T. Hughlett Henry was trustee for bankrupt Augusta Smithman and in a Court-ordered sale the land was bought by Virginia Bradford for \$102.50. Bradford immediately turned the land back to Augusta Smithmann by this deed.

YEAR: 1921 VOL: 192 PAGE: 204

FROM: T. Hughlett Henry, trustee PRICE:

TO: Virginia M. Bradford

NOTES Same description (Three lots).

T. Hughlett Henry had received the lots to sell by a deed of trust from Augusta Smithman 1913, 165/159.

YEAR: 1913 VOL: 165 PAGE: 159

FROM: Augusta E. Smithman PRICE:

TO: T. Hughlett Henry

NOTES All real estate of Augusta E. Smithman conveyed by this deed of trust. She was broke.

Augusta had received the land from the estate of her father, Charles A. Smithman. It was purchased from Richard Harrington by John H. McQuay in 1859. Charles Smithman married McQuay's daughter and Smithman inherited the property from his wife.

Conveyed to John H. McQuay by Richard Harrington 1859, 68/284.

YEAR: 1878 VOL: 85 PAGE: 452

FROM: Charles A. & Elizabeth E. Smithman and John H. McQuay PRICE: \$650

TO: Ellen F. Martin

NOTES This a mortgage for \$650 with this lot as security. The mortgage was released in 1882.

Conveyed to John H. McQuay by Richard Harrington 1859, 68/284.

Charles Smithman had married John McQuay's daughter.

YEAR: 1875 VOL: 80 PAGE: 304

FROM: Charles A. Smithman and John H. McQuay PRICE:

TO: Workingman's Building & Loan Assn St. Michaels

NOTES Mortgage for \$600. Secured by this lot. Description follows:

Begins at a stone on corner of Canton Lane and Talbot Street. Runs south with Talbot Street 24 feet, then with a lot of Richard Harrington dcd west 147 feet to a lot of O. P. Sparks; with Sparks NW 24 feet to Canton Lane; with the lane 147 feet to the beginning.

Conveyed by Richard and Elizabeth Harrington to John H. McQuay 1859, 68/284.

"Purchased by Richard Harrington from Rachel Jane Harrington in 1854".

YEAR: 1859 VOL: 68 PAGE: 284

FROM: Richard and Eliza Harrington PRICE: \$175

TO: John H. McQuay

NOTES A lot fronting 24 feet on Talbot Street adjoining property of Richard Harrington on one side and Canton Street on the other; running back 147 feet to Oliver P. Sparks. "WITH THE HOUSE ON THE PREMISES USED AS A KITCHEN"

Conveyed to Richard Harrington by Rachel Harrington 1854, 65/482.

YEAR: 1854 VOL: 65 PAGE: 482

FROM: Rachel Jane Harrington PRICE: \$125

TO: Richard Harrington

NOTES Her 1/2 interest. Begins at a stone at the intersection of Talbot Street and Harrison's Alley; run W with the alley 120 feet to the heirs of Walter Sparks; with Sparks SE 60 feet to William Skinner; with Skinner E 120 feet to Talbot Street; N 60 feet to the beginning.

Rachel was Richard's sister. The land had passed to Rachel and Richard from estate of their father Richard Harrington.

YEAR: 1804 VOL: 31 PAGE: 255

FROM: James Lambdin PRICE: \$466.46

TO: John McLain

NOTES Adjoining the W side of St. Michaels Church Land; #2; Begins at a stone at NE corner of lot number 1; run N 7 E by and with Church Land 87 feet to Thomas Harrison Sr. land; with Harrison 120 feet; then S 7 W 87 feet to lot #1; then N 77 E 120 feet with #1 to the beginning. 3/4 acre.

Also that part bought by John Merchant from the Vestry and conveyed to James Lambdin in 1801. See 1801, 29/43.

Elizabeth McLain, widow, married Richard Harrington father of Richard and Rachel Harrington in 1811.

YEAR: 1795 VOL: 26 PAGE: 235

FROM: Mary Thompson PRICE: p15 8s 9d

TO: James Lambdin, House Carpenter

NOTES Adjoins W side of Church Land. Lot #2. Begins NE corner lot #1; run N 7 E with Church land 87 feet to Thomas Harrison, Sr.'s land; with Harrison 120 feet; then S 7 W 87 feet to number 1; with number 1 home.

YEAR: 1791 VOL: 24 PAGE: 625

FROM: Joseph Harrison PRICE: p100

TO: Mary Thompson, widow

NOTES Part of Chance and Janes Progress. Begins at a stone on the SW side of a lot sold by John Thompson to Stephen Dawson, also the beginning of a lot belonging to John Bruff; run S 65 30' W 42 perches to Broad Creek; with the creek N 34 W 8 perches; then N 46 W 21 perches to the land of Thomas Harrison; with Harrison N 81 E 56 perches to the Church Land; then straight to the beginning. 6 acres. The date of this deed is 9 April. It includes most of the land within the Mt. Olivet Cemetery and the W end of Grace Street. It does not come within 22 feet of the Main Road because the Church Land was in the way. The piece of Church land went from John Merchant to James Lambdin by 1801, 29/43 and from the Vestry to John Merchant by 1800, (un-numbered)/62.

YEAR: 1791 VOL: 24 PAGE: 402
FROM: John Thompson PRICE: p100
TO: Joseph Harrison, 3rd.

NOTES Same as 24/625 except the "Michaels" is omitted from "Saint" and the area of the lot is given as 5 acres, 3/4 plus 37 Perches. This deed is dated in March.

The land was included in Braddock's land "south of the Main Road" that Thompson bought from James Wignal in 1784, 21/413; that Wignal had bought from Thompson in 1784, 21/417; and which Thompson had acquired by James Braddock's will in 1782. It was purchased by James Braddock from George Gleave in 1775-1776. (20/484 and 20/529) Gleave was a Tory and went back to England. George Gleave bought the property from James Hewes (1775, 20/474). Hewes got it by a quit-claim type of deed from Thomas Harrison in 1768, 19/510. As close as the lot is to the Church Land (Jane's Progress) it could have been in that tract although it is more likely part of Chance. If Chance, Hewes would have bought it from George Taylor in 1740. Edward Elliott picked up Chance as a resurvey in 1735, originally laid out for James Bellass in 1664.

ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.



ST. MICHAEL'S BUSINESS REFERENCES,

DODSON, Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Fine Toilet Soap, Fancy Hair and Tooth Brushes, Perfumery and Fancy Toilet Articles, Sashes, Shoulder-Braces, Grass and Garden Seeds. Fine Wines and Liquors for Medicinal purposes, Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs, Letter Paper, Pens, Ink, Envelopes, Glass, Putty, Carbon Oil, Stoves, Chimneys, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions carefully Compounded.

HADDAWAY, Insurance Agent and Conveyancer.

N. W. DEAN, Collector of Claims, Real Estate Agent and Conveyancer.

ESDYOTT, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.

RED H. HAMBLETON, Carpenter and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.

ESDYOTT, Real Estate Agent and Collector of Claims.

SPARRE, Justice of the Peace and Collector.

SMITHMAN, Boot and Shoemaker. First class work done on short notice. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

N. S. HAMBLETON, Proprietor of "Hambleton's Mechanical Shop." Blacksmithing, Wheel-righting, and all work appertaining thereto. Instructive Machinery carefully repaired. Farming implements on hand, and made to order at short notice. Carriage Repairing, Trimming and Painting Specially.

WILLIAM CAULK, Physician and Surgeon.

JAMES SETH, Physician and Surgeon, Office and Residence near St. Michael's.

LIAM S. HARRISON, Blacksmith and Wagon Maker. Repairing promptly and neatly done. Shop in Broad Creek Neck.

C. NEAVITT & CO., Dealers in Dry Goods, Notions, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, &c. Store in Broad Creek Neck.

IN T. HARRINGTON, Proprietor of "Williams House," Newly furnished and fitted. Table carefully catered for. All the luxuries of the season. Ample Stable Accommodations. Charges moderate.

NIEL J. KILMAN, Carriage Maker and Dealer in all kinds of Wagons.

ORGE W. COLLINS, Tinner. Worker in Tin, Sheet Iron, &c. Also Dealer in Stoves and Tin, and Sheet Iron ware of every description.

H. BLADES, Carpenter, Contractor, and Builder. Persons having work in this line will do well to see him before contracting.

JEFF HERGERSHEIMER, Ship Builder. Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done.

IVER FAIRBANK, Boot and Shoemaker. Is skilful in his profession. Those wanting first class work done will do well to patronize him.

RRISON & RICHARDSON, Carriage Makers. All work warranted. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

J. HOLLAND, Butcher and Dealer in Fresh Meats of all kinds. Shop on Talbot Street.

PT. C. BONARD, Freighter of Grain of all kinds. Point.

OMA BLADES, Of E. Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.

WEM. HARRISON, Dealer in Groceries, Confectioneries &c.

S. KILMON, Carriage Maker and Dealer in Carriages, Wagons, &c. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

A. DODSON Physician and Surgeon.

T-597



T-597
FOXES CLOTHING STORE
St. Michaels, Md. Quadrangle
1942



FOX'S CLOTHING STORE T-597
St. Michaels, Talbot Co., Md.
Southeast elevation
4/87 Paul Touart, photographer
Neg./Md Historical Trust



FOX'S CLOTHING STORE T-597
St. Michaels, Talbot Co., Md.
Southwest elevation
4/87 Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/Md. Historical Trust



FOX'S CLOTHING STORE T-597

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., Md.

East elevation

4/87 Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/Md. Historical Trust



FOX'S CLOTHING STORE T-597

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., Md.

Southwest corner--porch detail

4/87 Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/Md. Historical Trust